

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MAR 24 2003

IN RE APPLICATION OF: NOE, ET AL.

Examiner: MCKENZIE, T.

SERIAL NO.: 09/635,433

Unit: 1624

FILED: AUGUST 10, 2000

FOR: SELECTIVE INHIBITION OF
AGGREGANASE IN OSTEOARTHRITIS
TREATMENTHon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL & REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

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MAR 31 2003

TECH. CENTER 1600/2900

This document responds to the Office Action in the above case mailed March 19, 2002, requiring a response by June 19, 2002.

A Petition for a three-month extension of time accompanies this document. If such Petition is granted the period in which to respond will expire on August 19, 2002.

Please amend the application as follows:

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In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-15 and 21-23, without prejudice.

Please amend claims 16 and 18-20 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, as follows:

16. (Thrice amended) A method for treating a medical condition of the type that is characterized by the destruction of articular cartilage; wherein said medical condition comprises joint injury, reactive arthritis, acute pyrophosphate arthritis (pseudogout), psoriatic arthritis, osteoarthritis or juvenile rheumatoid arthritis; in a mammalian subject, which method comprises administering to the subject having said condition a therapeutically effective amount of a carboxylic acid hydroxamide derivative having a molecular weight of under 2000 grams/mole, wherein the carboxylic acid hydroxamide derivative exhibits an aggrecanase IC_{50} of less than about 20 nM, said aggrecanase IC_{50} measured by an aggrecanase chondrocyte assay.

18. (Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein the carboxylic acid hydroxamide derivative exhibits a collagenase-1 IC_{50} of greater than about 200 nM, said collagenase-1 IC_{50} measured by a recombinant collagenase-1 assay.